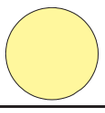
JULY 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 	2 	3 A recycle yard has been constructed downrange for collection of recyclable materials including paper, cardboard, wooden and steel target materials.	4 Independence Day	5 NATIVE PLANTS REQUIRE LESS WATER, FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES	6 USE MULCHES TO PREVENT WEEDS AND CONSERVE WATER	7 
8 USE HAND GARDEN TOOLS	9 **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER CERTIFICATION TRAINING 0900-1600** **BLDG # 2410 (Green Bldg)** **ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED**	10	11 **Garrison Commander's Monthly Sustainability Breakfast 0800 - 0920 Wolf Dining Facility Topic: Training Ranges**	12	13	14 
15 PRACTICE "LEAVE NO TRACE" CAMPING	16	17 **EQWG 1000-1130 EPO Meeting 1300 -1400 Green Bldg**	18	19 **ECO / BEM 1300 -1330 Bldg. 218** **Gen. Environmental Awareness 1330-1400 Bldg 218**	20 USE AN ELECTRIC BARBECUE LIGHTER	21 CHOOSE AN ELECTRIC OR MANUAL LAWN MOWER
22 	23 PICK UP PET WASTE	24	25 Range barriers have solar-powered lighting instead of battery-operated lights, which required frequent changing.	26 	27 	28 
29 	30 WATER YOUR LAWN IN THE EARLY MORNING OR LATE EVENING	31 USE A RAIN GAUGE TO ESTIMATE YOUR WATERING NEEDS				

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

— Aldo Leopold

Fort Carson training ranges become more sustainable

Sustaining Fort Carson and its mission encompasses every facet of installation operations and activities, not the least of which is the actual land used for training. That is no small feat when it comes to a land mass area that comprises more than 339,000 acres between Fort Carson and the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

Fort Carson Range Division demonstrates an integral role in ensuring training lands are conserved and properly used through implementation of the Integrated Training Area Management Program. The ITAM program is regulated by the Army's Sustainable Range Program in concert with overall installation environmental and natural resource management directives.

Each year at Fort Carson and Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, the Fort Carson ITAM program, monitors and assesses the condition of the training lands to determine the best management practices to re-vegetate or rehabilitate areas affected by weather, fire and military training. Future damage is prevented through maneuver damage education and repair measures that are proven to last.

"Each year at Fort Carson and Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, the Fort Carson ITAM program, monitors and assesses the condition of the training lands, determines the best management practices to re-vegetate or rehabilitate areas affected by weather, fire and military training and prevent future damage through maneuver damage education and repair measures that are proven to last," said James (Dan) Benford, Fort Carson Range Officer.

Areas trained upon during maneuvers, sustain damage that has to be minimized and, in some cases repaired. In coordination with the DECAM, the ITAM program uses a mandatory native seed mix that replenishes the native grass species and limits noxious weeds to offset the potential for wildland fires. "We are also researching various types of possible vegetation species that are more fire resistant (to use as an alternate to grading firebreaks) and for more robust species that stand up better to maneuver training," said Benford.

The use of renewable energy for operations and recycling on training ranges has gained ground in the last year. Fort Carson has a number of ranges that operate off of commercial power grids to conduct training, said Benford. In support of Fort Carson's sustainability goals, an initiative has been instituted to convert these power demands to renewable energy sources. Currently, Fort Carson has five ranges that operate the target systems from solar panels. The ultimate goal is to operate all ranges and training facilities with renewable energy sources.

Training range sustainability efforts include fitting targets with solar arrays for power instead of using electricity.

Another initiative of converting non-renewable energy requirements downrange to readily available solar energy, is replacing all battery operated lighting on vehicle barriers, range flagpoles and range safety fan markers with solar recharged light units.

This year, said Benford, construction of a recycle yard at Range Division headquarters will be completed. All paper, cardboard, wooden and steel target materials will be recycled instead of finding its way to the local landfills.

"Sustaining all of our resources to preserve the ability to utilize the resources to maximize training effectiveness is vital to the long-term success of the Mountain Post and its Soldiers," said Benford.